**Job opportunities for SCs/STs/OBCs**

*493. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of persons belonging to ST/ST and OBC registered with all the employment exchanges in the country, category-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide employment to these categories of people belonging to weaker sections; and

(c) whether Government would impart job-oriented training to them to make them eligible to get jobs that are available to skilled persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Percentage of SC, ST and OBC job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31st December 2003 was 16.00 percent, 5.6 percent and 19.9 percent respectively.

There is a provision for reservation of jobs for SC/ST and OBC candidates in Public Sector. Special recruitment drives for filling up the reserved vacancies are launched as and when felt necessary.

With a view to enhance the employability of SC and ST job seekers registered with the employment exchanges, Ministry of Labour & Employment provides career counselling, vocational guidance, skill training in typing/shorthand, short terms training on Computer operations, besides providing coaching to prepare them to compete in examinations organized by various public sector Recruitment Agencies/Selection Boards for Group C posts.

**WLL base stations in Assam**

*496. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WLL base stations have been sanctioned to clear the waitlist for telephone connection in Kamrup Telecom District of Assam;